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Application No. 10/823,848

Amendment dated July 23, 2006

Reply to Office Action mailed on March 22, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-3 and 5.

Please add new claims 6 and 7.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A method for tinting the surface of a solid substrate such as a plastic sheet, or a coating, or a film, with a nanometer-sized, or a multi-nanometer-sized polyphenol, such as melanin, in which said solid substrate is:

- a) chemically etched to cause multi-nanometer-sized pores within a thin, several microns layer of the substrate but sufficiently small pore sizes to preclude visible light scatter;
- b) functionalized so as to react and bond with the said polyphenol, or melanin.

2 (currently amended). A method for tinting the surface of a solid substrate, according to claim 1, in which the substrate is ER39 diethyleneglycol bis-allycarbonate.

3.(currently amended). A method for tinting the surface of a solid substrate, according to claim 1, in which the substrate is a polymer hard coating.

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4 (original). A method for tinting the surface of a solid substrate, according to claim 1, in which the etching agent is sodium hydroxide.

5 (currently amended). A method for tinting the surface of a solid substrate, according to claim 1, in which the etching agent is accompanied by a phase transfer catalyst, such as ~~tetrabutylammonium bromide~~ or by the addition of hexanediamine or by the addition of domiphen bromide.

6 (new). A method according to claim 1 wherein the polyphenol is melanin.

7 (new). A method according to claim 5 wherein the phase transfer catalyst is ~~is~~ tetrabutyl ammonium bromide.